IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   A message routing method, comprising:

(a)   receiving a message;

(b)   determining a route path for delivery of said message to one or more recipient services, said route path including one or more in-transit services; and

(c)   delivering said message to an in-transit service in said route path, wherein said in-transit service performs an identifiable operation on said message as said message travels from a sending service to a recipient service.

2.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said message includes a header element and at least one of a body element and an attachment.

3.   The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said header element is an extensible markup language header element.

4.   The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said body element and said attachment can accommodate any type of data.

5.   The message routing method of claim 4, wherein said data includes extensible markup language data.

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6.   The message routing method of claim 4, wherein said data includes text data.

7.   The message routing method of claim 4, wherein said data includes binary data.

8.   The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said message further includes routing and route trace elements.

9.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said receiving is based on the Simple Object Access Protocol.

10.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said receiving includes receiving said message from a party that sends said message on behalf of a sender.

11.   The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said determining is based on a reference to a service identified in said header element.

12.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said determining is based on at least one routing script.

13.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining is based on a routing script defined by a sending service.

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14.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining is based on a routing script defined by a recipient service.

15.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining is based on a routing script defined by an in-transit service.

16.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining is based on routing scripts defined by a sending service, a recipient service, and at least one in-transit service.

17.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining is recursive.

18.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining occurs prior to physical delivery of said message.

19.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein said determining occurs dynamically during logical and physical delivery of said message.

20.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein a routing script defines a procedure that determines an existence of one or more attributes of the message.

21.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein a routing script defines a procedure based on pattern matching.

22.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein a routing script defines a procedure that compares one or more attributes of a message to a reference value.

23.   The message routing method of claim 12, wherein a routing script is based on a routing rule, said routing rule including a condition and one or more actions.

24.   The message routing method of claim 23, wherein said condition is one of an equals, not-equals, equals-one-of, less-than, greather-than, and exists operators.

25.   The message routing method of claim 23, wherein said condition is a combination of one or more conditions.

26.   The message routing method of claim 25, wherein said one or more conditions are combined using one or more of an AND, OR, XOR, and NOT operators.

27.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said delivering includes pushing said message to said in-transit service.

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28.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said delivering includes delivering said message upon a polling action by said in-transit service.

29.   The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said delivering includes delivering said message to said in-transit service for one of a data transformation operation, an enrichment operation, a cross-reference ID mapping operation, a filtering operation, and a credit scoring operation.

30.   The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising logging usage, status, and billing information after processing said message.

31.   The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising delivering said message to said recipient service after said message has been routed to all in-transit services in said route path.

32.   A message routing system, comprising:

a message routing network that enables message routing between a sending service and one or more recipient services, said message routing network further enabling inclusion of a plurality of in-transit services into said message routing network, wherein an in-transit service

can be selectively included in a routing for a message based upon an identifiable type of processing that said in-transit service can perform on said message.

33.   The message routing system of claim 32, wherein said in-transit service performs one of a data transformation operation, an enrichment operation, a cross-reference ID mapping operation, a filtering operation, and a credit scoring operation.

34.   The message routing system of claim 32, wherein an in-transit service is included in said routing based on a routing script.

35.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing script is defined by a sending service.

36.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing script is defined by a recipient service.

37.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing script is defined by an in-transit service.

38.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing is defined by a sending service, a recipient service, and at least one in-transit service.

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39.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing is determined recursively.

40.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing is determined prior to physical delivery of said message.

41.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein said routing is determined during logical and physical delivery of said message.

42.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein a routing script defines a procedure that determines an existence of one or more attributes of the message.

43.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein a routing script defines a procedure based on pattern matching.

44.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein a routing script defines a procedure that compares one or more attributes of a message to a reference value.

45.   The message routing system of claim 34, wherein a routing script is based on a routing rule, said routing rule including a condition and one or more actions.

46.   The message routing system of claim 45, wherein said condition is one of an equals, not-equals, equals-one-of, less-than, greather-than, and exists operators.

47.   The message routing system of claim 45, wherein said condition is a combination of one or more conditions.

48.   The message routing system of claim 47, wherein said one or more conditions are combined using one or more of an AND, OR, XOR, and NOT operators.

49.   The message routing system of claim 32, wherein said message routing network provides a transport level messaging service.

50.   The message routing system of claim 32, wherein said message is delivered to said recipient service after said message has been routed to all in-transit services in said route path.

51.   A computer program product comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to receive a message;

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to determine a route path for delivery of said message to one or more recipient services, said route path including one or more in-transit services;

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to deliver said message to an in-transit service in said route path, wherein said in-transit service has been created to perform an identifiable operation on said message as said message travels from a sending service to a recipient service; and

a computer-usable medium configured to store the computer-readable program codes.

52. A message routing network method, comprising:

(a) receiving a registration request from a service for inclusion in a message routing network, said service being operative to provide a data operation; and

(b) including said service in a directory of services, said directory of services enabling users of said message routing network to define at least a portion of a desired data processing on a message.

53. The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein said service provides a data transformation service.

54. The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein said service provides a data enrichment service.

55.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein said service provides a cross-reference service.

56.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein said service provides a filtering service.

57.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein said service provides a credit scoring service.

58.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein a service is selected from said directory of services by a sending service.

59.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein a service is selected from said directory of services by a recipient service.

60.   The message routing network method of claim 52, wherein a service is selected from said directory of service engines by an in-transit service.

61.   The message routing network method of claim 52, further comprising storing a script defined by one of a sending service, a recipient service, and an in-transit service, said

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script mapping an invocation of a first service to an invocation of a second service, wherein contexts of said invocations are managed by said message routing network.

62.   The message routing network method of claim 61, wherein said script defines a procedure for enabling determination of at least part of a routing of a message between services.

63.   A computer program product comprising:

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to receive a registration request from a service for inclusion in a message routing network, said service being operative to provide a data operation;

computer-readable program code for causing a computer to include said service in a directory of services, said directory of services enabling users of said message routing network to define at least a portion of a desired data processing on a message; and

a computer-usable medium configured to store the computer-readable program codes.

64.   A message routing system, comprising:

a message routing network having an interface that enables a plurality of services to post messages to and receive messages from said message routing network, at least a portion of said plurality of services providing a menu of data operations that can be selectively applied to a message traversing said message routing network.

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65.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said message routing network provides a transport level messaging service.

66.   The message routing system of claim 65, wherein said message routing network is implemented on a public network.

67.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said plurality of services includes a service that provides a data transformation service.

68.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said plurality of services includes a service that provides a data enrichment service.

69.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said plurality of services includes a service that provides a cross-reference service.

70.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said plurality of services includes a service that provides a filtering service.

71.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said plurality of services includes a service that provides a credit scoring service.

72.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein a service is selected by a sending service.

73.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein a service is selected by a recipient service.

74.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein a service is selected by an in-transit service.

75.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein said interface uses the Simple Object Access Protocol.

76.   The message routing system of claim 64, wherein a service is selectively applied based on a routing script.

77.   The message routing system of claim 76, wherein said routing script maps an invocation of a first service to an invocation of a second service, wherein contexts of said invocations are managed by said message routing network.

78.   The message routing system of claim 76, wherein said script defines a procedure for enabling determination of at least part of a routing of a message between services.

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79.   The message routing system of claim 76, wherein said routing script is defined by one of a sending service, a recipient service, and an in-transit service.

80.   A message routing system, comprising:

a message routing network that enables message routing between a plurality of services, wherein each service provides a data operation that is applied to a message traversing said routing, wherein said message routing network generates a bill for at least part of said message routing based on usage of individual services.

81.   The message routing system of claim 80, wherein said bill is generated through an analysis of invocations of said plurality of services.

82.   The message routing system of claim 80, wherein said bill is based on message size.

83.   The message routing system of claim 80, wherein said bill is determined on a per transaction basis.